

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/006,398

Examiner

L. G. Lauchman

Applicant(s)

YATES ET AL.

Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/14/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16,18,20 and 21.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 719.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

GREGORY J. FOATLEY, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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2877

DETAILED ACTION

The response filed 7/14/2004 overcomes the final rejection mailed 4/23/2004.

Drawings

New corrected drawings are required in this application because the current drawings are informal. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The affidavit filed on 7/14/2004 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the US 6,614,540 reference.

The Affidavit under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 of J. P. Taylor, Patent Attorney for the Assignee, LSI Logic Corporation alleges that the invention claimed in the application was prepared by the inventors, C. D. Yates, N. F. Pasch, and N. K. Eib, on a date prior to June 28, 2001, the filing date of the US Patent 6,614,540 to Stirton.

Claims 1-16, 18, 20, 21 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to Claim 1, the prior art of record taken along or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious measuring the alignment of said test pattern in said selected fields of said first layer with said overlying latent images in said photoresist layer using scatterometry, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claim.

As to Claim 8, the prior art of record taken along or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious measuring the alignment of said parallel lines of said test pattern in said selected fields of said first layer with said overlying latent images of parallel lines in said photoresist layer using scatterometry, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claim.

As to Claim 18, the prior art of record taken along or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious measuring the alignment of said parallel lines of said test pattern in said selected fields of said first layer with said overlying latent images of parallel lines in said photoresist layer using scatterometry, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claim.

As to Claim 20, the prior art of record taken along or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious measuring the alignment of said test pattern in said selected fields of said first layer with said overlying latent images in said photoresist layer using scatterometry, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to TC 2877 via the PTO Fax Center located in CP4-4C23. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CP4 Fax Center number is (703) 872-9306.

If the Applicant wishes to send a Fax dealing with either a Proposed Amendment or for discussion for a phone interview then the fax should:

- a) Contain either the statement "DRAFT" or "PROPOSED AMENDMENT" on the Fax Cover Sheet; and
- b) Should be unsigned by the attorney or agent.

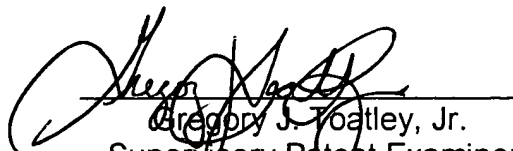
This will ensure that it will not be entered into the case and will be forwarded to the examiner as quickly as possible.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to L. G. Lauchman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2418.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.



L. G. Lauchman
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2877
July 20, 2004/lgl



Gregory J. Boatley, Jr.
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2877